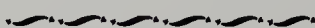


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BOOK REVIEW

The compleat naturalist; a life of Linnaeus by Wilfrid Blunt. 1971. The Viking Press, Inc., 625 Madison Ave., N.Y., N.Y. 10022. 256 p.; numerous illustrations; \$14.95, cloth. (With an appendix on Linnaean classification, nomenclature, and method by William T. Stern, p. 242-252).

No botanist or zoologist can ever be quite as famous and universally known as Linnaeus (or often just L.—even John F. Kennedy needs 3 letters [JFK]) for recognition. Only Fabricius (lesser known because of his narrower specialization) is easily recognized, at least by Coleopterists, by one initial (F.). Linnaeus not only founded our present binomial system of nomenclature (1758), but he described approximately 4,400 species of animals and 7,700 species of plants.

The Linnaean Society of London has had most of Linnaeus' insect collections since 1829, but some are also deposited at the Zoological Institute in Uppsala, Sweden. Although several books, and many articles, have dealt with the life of Linnaeus, none is more beautifully executed than this new one. Although the emphasis is on his botanical activities, much of the text relates to the man and his ideas. It would be profitable reading for every biologist—but a must for every serious student of Coleoptera.—R. E. Woodruff.